

ESF Coordinator

Stillwater County Sheriff's Office

Primary Agencies

Stillwater County Disaster and Emergency
Services
Columbus Fire/Rescue
Stillwater County SAR

Support Agencies

County Rural Fire Departments
MT DES

National Weather Service
Stillwater County GIS Program
Montana DNRC

Introduction

Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 – Search and Rescue (SAR) rapidly deploys SAR resources to provide lifesaving rescue operations when there is an actual or anticipated need for SAR operations.

Scope

ESF #9—SAR is activated during incidents or potential incidents requiring a large scale or long duration SAR response. The ESF #9 Coordinator is Stillwater County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) as this agency is legally in charge of traditional SAR operations per MCA. ESF #9 Primary and Support Agencies provide timely and specialized SAR capabilities, support and resources as requested.

SAR operations include answering distress calls, establishing communications, locating distressed or lost personnel, coordination and execution of rescue operations in rural or urban environments, including air, land, water and USAR extrication and/or evacuation to assist persons and property in potential or actual distress.

SAR Response operations are classified in this plan in two Primary Functions:

Land, Air & Waterborne Search and Rescue: Primary Agency is SCSO. The Sheriff's Office is in charge of Search and Rescue Operations in this function per MCA.

Structural Collapse (Urban) Search and Rescue (USAR): Primary Agency is Columbus Fire/Rescue (CFR). USAR includes operations for natural and manmade disasters and catastrophic incidents which require structural collapse operations.

Jurisdictions within Stillwater County and, the entire state of Montana, lack qualified USAR Teams. This is an identified capability gap that cannot be filled locally at this time. Until a time that USAR capabilities are developed locally, during a USAR incident, Columbus CFR shall serve in a coordinating capacity with Stillwater County DES (SC DES) to obtain certified USAR resources. In the time following a USAR incident, likely 48-72 hours, operations will be conducted within the training and capabilities of present responders to preserve life and protect property

Policies

Table 9-1. Policies

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESF #9 is activated by SC DES upon notification of a potential or actual incident or event that requires a coordinated response and support. • ICS and NIMS principles shall be followed for all emergencies or disasters. • Actions initiated under ESF #9 are coordinated and conducted cooperatively with federal, state and local landowners, agencies and incident management officials and with private entities as required. • SAR Teams brought in from other agencies shall have operational control over their team members after receiving an assignment to determine if their missions are safe. • Reference NRF-ESF #9 and the Montana Emergency Response Framework (MERF) for additional references and policies on state and federal involvement in SAR operations. • Reimbursement may be provided through state, federal programs or other sources, as available.
Land, Air & Waterborne SAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing SAR Policies, Procedures and Guidelines of the SCSO shall be in effect during activation of ESF #9.
USAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USAR is an identified capability gap in Stillwater County and the State of Montana. • In the time following a USAR incident, likely 48-72 hours, operations will be conducted within the training and capabilities of present responders to preserve life and protect property. • USAR response resources are available through the SECC using the EMAC and/or NRF. • Responding USAR Teams that have been ordered by the incident shall be involved in operational decisions regarding their USAR mission as much as possible to provide USAR expertise.

Concept of Operations

General

SCSO organizes the ESF staff and support agencies based upon the core functional areas described in succeeding paragraphs. ESF #9 organizes and coordinates the capabilities and resources of the local government to facilitate answering distress calls, establishing communications, locating distressed or lost personnel, coordination and execution of rescue operations in rural or urban environments including land, air, water and USAR extrication and/or evacuation to assist persons and property in potential or actual distress.

ESF #9 is scalable to meet the specific needs of each incident, based upon the nature and magnitude of the event, the suddenness of onset, and the availability of local SAR resources.

Support agencies will provide assistance under the Incident Command System in place to the ESF Coordinator and Primary Agencies in line with their agency mission and functions.

Table 9-2. Functional Categories and Responsibilities

	ESF Primary Agency	ESF Responsibilities
Land, Air & Waterborne SAR	SCSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCSO, as the ESF #9 Coordinator provides information to the Unified Command Group through the chain of command for the duration of the incident. • Coordinates primary and support agencies for planning and operational needs. • Coordinates resolution of conflicting operational demands for SAR response resources • Coordinates with out of area executing SAR operations in the field to determine needs. • Coordinates logistical support for Land, Air and Waterborne SAR resources to maintain operational readiness. • Ensures coordination with USAR operations during the planning cycle and operational periods. • Provides incident and situational reports and assessments as required. • Determines need, completes and submits cost reimbursement paperwork for SAR activities as reimbursement is available. (eg. State of Montana Search and Rescue Fund)
USAR	SC SAR, Columbus Fire/Rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages and coordinates USAR resources coming in from out of area. • Coordinates logistical support for USAR resources to maintain operational readiness. • Communicates with the ESF Coordinator to ensure knowledge and needs of USAR operations during the planning cycle and operational periods. • Conducts operations within the training and capabilities of present responders to preserve life and protect property. • Provides incident and situational reports and assessments to the ESF Coordinator as required.

Organization—Response Structure

ESF #9 operates under direction of SCSO. SCSO will identify and provide a coordinator based on the assistance needed for an ESF #9 incident. When an incident requires assistance from more than one of the ESF #9 functions, SCSO provides the regional point of contact and represents ESF #9 in its dealings with any work at the Emergency Operations Center.

When ESF #9 assistance involves only one functional area of ESF #9 the agency in charge of that functional area may provide an individual to fill the coordinator function as the point of contact to represent ESF #9 in its dealings with any Unified Coordination Group. ESF #9 will have staff on duty at the Joint Field Office (JFO) as needed, for the duration of the emergency response period.

Actions and Responsibilities

Table 9-3. Actions and Responsibilities

Functional Category	Actions and Responsibilities
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC DES activates ESF #9 and notifies required personnel or individuals of activation. • SCSO, as the ESF #9 Coordinator provides information to the Unified Coordination Group through the chain of command for the duration of the incident. • SCSO coordinates primary and support agencies for planning and operational needs. • SCSO coordinates resolution of conflicting operational demands for SAR response resources • All personnel shall follow ICS and NIMS principles while executing their duties associated with ESF #9.
Land, Air and Waterborne SAR (SCSAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates local outside resources executing SAR operations in the field to determine needs. • Coordinates logistical support for Land, Air and Waterborne SAR resources to maintain operational readiness. • Ensures knowledge and needs of USAR operations are communicated and addressed during the planning cycle and operational periods. • Provides incident and situational reports and assessments to the ESF Coordinator as required.
USAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages and coordinates USAR resources coming in from out of area. • Coordinates logistical support for USAR resources to maintain operational readiness. • Communicates with the ESF Coordinator to ensure knowledge and needs of USAR operations are communicated and addressed during the planning cycle and operational periods. • Conducts operations within the training and capabilities of present responders to preserve life and protect property. • Provides incident and situational reports and assessments to the ESF Coordinator as required.

Signatures

We, the undersigned, understand our roles and responsibilities as outline in ESF #9.

Carol Arkell, Coordinator
Stillwater County Disaster and Emergency Services

Clifford Brophy, Sheriff
Stillwater County Sheriff's Office

Rich Cowger, Chief
Columbus Fire/Rescue